



Gem County Mosquito Abatement District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMMETT – Mosquitoes collected in a trap during routine surveillance within the central portion of the Gem County Mosquito Abatement District (GCMAD) have tested positive for West Nile virus, according to Jason Kinley, Director of the abatement district.

Results of the West Nile Virus tests on mosquitoes trapped on May 31, 2006 were confirmed by the Idaho State Laboratory on June 2, 2006. West Nile virus is a mosquito and bird cycle disease. Animals and humans are incidentally infected when bitten by a female mosquito infected with the virus.

Kinley said, “We know West Nile is here in the GCMAD and our mosquito control operations will not deviate from the current plan. The best way to control mosquitoes is to eliminate the sources that mosquitoes develop in and to kill the larvae in standing water before they become flying adults.” He said that it is important that all members of the district and citizens of Gem County know about West Nile virus and how to protect themselves from the disease. “We can all take steps to reduce mosquito habitat around our homes and adopt simple practices to minimize the exposure to mosquito bites,” he added.

About 20 percent of those infected with the virus experience mild flu like symptoms, such as fever, body aches, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes a mild rash. Kinley recommends that anyone who experiences these symptoms consult their medical provider.

People can protect themselves by following the **Seven D's** to avoid mosquito bites:

DRAIN any standing water on your property that may produce mosquitoes.

DAWN and **DUSK** are time for people to avoid the outdoors.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

DEFEND yourself against mosquitoes by using an insect repellent (follow label directions).

DOOR and window screens should be in good condition to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

DISTRICT personnel are here to help address any mosquito problem your family may be experiencing.

Currently, the district is finding and treating any standing water that is producing mosquitoes and making applications to control adult mosquitoes, referred to as fogging. Fogging is taking place in selective areas of the district that are experiencing heavy infestations of adult mosquitoes and will begin routine, district-wide fogging applications soon. The GCMAD is available to survey and treat any standing water within the district and will answer any questions citizens may have. The district can be contacted by calling 208.365.5628.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit the following websites:

Southwest District Health Web Page

<http://www.publichealthidaho.com> or <http://swdh.org>

Idaho Office of Epidemiology & Food Protection Web Page

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov>

Idaho Fish & Game

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/wildlife/manage_issues/wnv/wnvwild.cfm

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/wildlife/manage_issues/wnv/home.cfm

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/clinicians.htm>